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RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS COUPLE WITH HOME

"National Homeownership celebrated with local couple"

RICHARDTON, June 22, 2006. . . . In recognition of June as Homeownership Month, Clare Carlson, State Director for USDA Rural Development in North Dakota, and other Rural Development staff members visited the home of Allan and Sharon Hutton in Richardton.



"Homeownership is important to families and communities," Carlson said. "It provides a safe environment and stabilizes rural communities. Today's event re-enforces Rural Development's commitment to helping families and individuals achieve the American dream."

On May 24th, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation designating the month of June as Homeownership Month. The proclamation underscores the Administration's commitment to providing more Americans with safe, affordable housing.

Allan and Sharon Hutton were living in an older manufactured home which no longer met decent, safe, and sanitary conditions. They came to Rural Development seeking assistance. Through Rural Development's 502 Direct Loan program, the Huttons were able to purchase a new manufactured home. The Section 502 loan requires no down payment and provides other assistance as needed.



In honor of Allan and Sharon Hutton, a Silver Maple tree is being planted in their yard. The tree is donated by the Central Stark Soil Conservation District in Dickinson.

In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$79.8 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

Further information on these, and other rural programs, is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

